

# THE AMS OF UBC VANCOUVER

## AMS Governance Committee

Minutes of May 25, 2017

### Attendance

Present: Mackenzie Lockhart (Chair), Cameron England (Councilor), Chris Hakim (Councilor), Pooja Bhatti (Executive), Jeanie Malone (Councilor via telephone), Jakob Gattinger (Councilor via Skype) Kelvin Hsu (Member at Large)

Guests: Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk), Max Holmes (AVP AUA and former Elections Admin)

Regrets: None

Recording Secretary: Mackenzie Lockhart (Chair)

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03.

### Introductions

Members introduced themselves.

### Approval of Agenda

Moved: Cam

Seconded: Chris

That the agenda be adopted.

*The motion carries unanimously.*

### Election of a Vice Chair

Moved: Chris

Seconded: Cam

That Pooja Bhatti be elected as Vice-Chair for a period beginning immediately and ending at the first AMS Council meeting in September.

*The motion carries unanimously.*

### Priorities for the summer

Recommendations from Council:



- Committee on AMS-Constituency relationships
  - Recommendation 6 (Presidents Council)
    - Mac: This should be easy; hopefully it can be on our next agenda.
  - Recommendation 7 (Constituency Metrics)
    - Jakob: Financial reporting can be put in code and any other reporting structures will fit best in an internal policy.
  - Recommendation 12 (Constituency Election Dates)
    - Mac: This recommendation might require a bylaw change; changing constituency constitutions violates the spirit of the bylaw that allows them to hold elections in a manner of their choosing.
    - Mac: We should look into whether constituencies actually want this.
  - Recommendation 4 (Constituency Media Protocol)
    - Mac: The AMS currently lacks a communications manager, so we could put this off until then.
    - Jakob: We could consult them and see what they currently have.
    - Kelvin: Supply them with the current staff communications policy until we have something figured out.
    - Kelvin: What about clubs?
    - Mac: We should consider directing this entire conversation to operations.
- Services Review
  - Make SSM a Council Member.
    - Sheldon: Not actually from the services review, but something Council has directed us to do.
    - Mac: Should be an easy change.
  - Mac: We should follow up on service review and make sure there's nothing left.



- Elections Committee
  - Recommendation 2 (Split Events and Communications Officer)
    - Max: There used to be two positions, this is similar to changing it back.
  - Recommendation 3 (Changing ElecCom)
    - Mac: The specific recommendation is laid out in the report, it's about a specific composition of ElecCom.
  - Recommendation 4 (Codify Conflict of Interest Rules)
    - Mac: We can steal from the elections committee handbook to make this code (hopefully).
  - Recommendation 10 (Change reimbursement procedure)
    - Max: Old code can't be enforced under Condorcet voting; we need to make a decision on if we try to keep it or abandon it entirely.
    - Mac: Why don't we just abandon Condorcet for Borda Count?
    - A discussion of Borda Count ensued. The Chair managed to name the only country that actually uses Borda Count.
  - Recommendation 11 (Review constituency election protocols)
    - Mac: This recommendation is very broad
    - Max: Broad oversight rules, we need more. ElecCom needs a standardized way to deal with constituencies.
    - Mac: We should just figure out who should look into this instead of us (ElecCom might be a good place to start).

#### Other directives from Council

- Change goal process to be in line with I-9
  - Sheldon: To do this, all we need to do is remove Article 6-9 from code
  - Mac: Also the bit about Steering Committee



- Sheldon: That falls outside of the directive from Council
- Policy on biannual committee review
  - Mac: We could give this to Steering Committee
  - Sheldon: It's very vague. Are there any more specifics?
  - Mac: No.

Other business from elsewhere.

- Fix Steering Committee membership (idea brought forward in ExecCom)
  - Mac: Some chairs can't sit on Steering Committee according to current code (i.e. Cameron England as chair of Advocacy)
- Petition privacy policy
  - Mac: This is continued from the previous committee
  - Sheldon: We're ready for a vote on this, it was finished.

Mac's ideas:

- Introduce gender neutral pronouns to Code.
  - Mac: This is a simple way to make code friendly to students seeking to get involved. The singular 'they' has become accepted.
- Find a place for Student Services Manager
  - Mac: The SSM is currently somewhere between Exec and Employee. We should look into pushing them in one direction. It's weird to treat a hired employee as an executive so we should either treat them as a staff member or have them elected as a VP Services.
- Student Court.
  - Mac: Student Court needs to be fixed when it isn't a problem. If we wait until it's needed, fixing student court becomes tangled up with the issue before Council. We should look into long term solutions now instead of waiting.



**Other business arising**

None.

**Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is about two weeks from now.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30.

## THE AMS OF UBC VANCOUVER

Minutes of the AMS Governance Committee  
June 6, 2pm – NEW SUB 3511



### Present:

Present: Mackenzie Lockhart (Chair), Jakob Gattinger (Councillor), Cameron England (Councillor), Chris Hakim (Councillor), Pooja Bhatti (Executive), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk), Alan Ehrenholz (AMS President), Max Holmes (Elections Admin)

Regrets: Kelvin Hsu (Member at Large), Jeanie Malone (Councillor)

Recording Secretary: Pooja Bhatti

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 pm

### Agenda Items

#### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Chris

Seconded: Cameron

That the agenda be adopted.

#### MOTION PASSES

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Cameron

Seconded: Chris

That minutes from the May 25th meeting be approved and sent to Council.

#### MOTION PASSES

#### 3. Internal Policy on Petition Privacy

Moved: Pooja

Seconded: Cameron

That the Petition Privacy Policy be recommended to Council for adoption.

Be it further resolved that the code change titled “Code changes 2017 referendum petitions” also be recommended to Council.



## AMS Committee to Re-Elect the President

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### MOTION PASSES

Mac:

- have no minutes to understand why things were important

Sheldon:

- broadening - whatever sort of petition it is - i.e.: someone took a photo of a petition and showed it on their Facebook site - we have to stop that, and there are other sorts of things like that; make sure that people do their best to keep all those things secure and private
- should put this in in the regulation requirements of code

Jakob:

- why are we going to allow petitions at all - huge risk

Mac:

- not a bad thing to look into, save a lot of paper
- something for another governance committee to look into

Sheldon:

- policy doesn't require paper

Sheldon:

- change effective date - June 28th
- Approval date - June 28th

### **4. Reintegrating Code on Constituency Spending Reporting**

Mac:

on the recommendation from the ad hoc committee

constituency overspending was the reason it was there

there used to be a piece in code regarding that a certain amount be approved by fin comm, and recommended to bring it back in



## AMS Committee to Re-Elect the President

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some pushback at the council meeting - thought it was unreasonable, take a lot of time for budget committee to approve these

but council that we should draft these up

Alan:

if the club is going to incur a deficit

Mac:

committee continued to refer as a deficit, but what was meant was a expenditure

Alan: is this a line item?

informed Alim this was coming back

Jakob:

best to keep it over \$1000

Motion: Jakob - to remove '7.' from the proposal seconded by pooja - strike '7'

unanimous consent

Alan:

don't know that many clubs that would have that much of a deficit - maybe consider them differently?

Jakob:

- purpose - to protect the AMS from what they can't absorb
- \$1000 is fine - worry about the deficit that will affect the society
- deficit on proposed budget



## AMS Committee to Re-Elect the President

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- point is that you're saying - later in the year when there isn't the ability to adjust the budget, there is a problem - better to leave it vague, people take up a more broad interpretation - even if you can't cover it - something that the AMS should know about
- 
- Mac:
- no one knows what the definition is in this case
- okay with the credit card bit? \$5000 would be per purchase
- budget committee is making a policy, it might conflict?
- Alan - based on the overall budget for the year, determine by a financial team
- Chris - should specify that so we don't have to always go to Keith
- Mac: word change - 'projected deficit for the year' ...of over \$1000

Moved: Mac

Seconded: Chris

BIRT that the code change entitled "Code Changes 2017 - Club and constituency deficits" be recommended to council as amended

### MOTION PASSES

#### **5. Presidents Council**

Mac:

changing how council meetings work

add in a report from presidents council - 2 minute update

Code changes on President's Council

Composed of:

*president of the society*

- Powers and duties; went in line with AMS Constituencies - facilitate discussion, facilitate cooperation, be form in which constituencies update each other, etc (in the code)

Alan:



## AMS Committee to Re-Elect the President

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executive committee of the society - may be too many people

but if it's non voting, it wouldn't be too bad

Chris:

playing an 'advisory' role - instead of whole committee coming in, little bit redundant - maybe just one person apart from the society's president

non voting, one other executive member designated by the executive committee ? Same problem because you'd need to vote them

*one other executive as designated by the executive committee, who shall be non voting*

*the Society's Communications manager, who shall be non voting*

Chris - why does it need to be approved by council?

Mac - good for record, to look back, and councillors will be aware

Powers and Duties;

- any time we want to consult constituencies
- recommendations to the council
- pretty vague what the report suggestions in making it more regular - it was to replace the slower communication channels in the AMS
- from Alan -
  - updates
  - new department club formation
  - inform of starting/ongoing negotiations
  - inform of potential referendums that will be run
  - coordinating multi constituency campaigns



## AMS Committee to Re-Elect the President

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- advise on yearly constituency executive orientation
- oversee and suggest edits to the constituency executive handbook
- collect and send to council the reporting metrics
- oversee, train, and advise the first year committee

Presidents council deciding on details for the first year committee

Sent to president's council anyway

Committee Handbook - written by Admin, but edited and such by the Council

(b) ... including by not limited to departmental clubs, negotiations and advocacy within the university, and potential constituency referendum campaigns

(d) advise on yearly constituency executive orientation

(e) oversee and suggest edits to the constancy executive handbook

(f) collect and review reporting metrics from the constituencies

Other things: Media Policy - to send to Operations Committee?

Sheldon – will update with new wording and bring to next committee meeting.

### 6. Non-Voting Members of Council

Moved: Pooja

Seconded: Chris

That the code change titled “Code changes 2017 non-voting members” be recommended to Council for adoption.

things to strike out - a rep from the Alumni Association

Adding: student services manager, UBC Vancouver student beers of the board of governors , and two students elected by and from the student members of the UBC Vancouver Senate



## AMS Committee to Re-Elect the President

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### MOTION PASSES

#### **Next Meeting**

Next Meeting: TBD but in about 2 weeks.

#### **Adjourn**

That the meeting be adjourned at 3:23 PM.

**Minutes of the AMS Governance Committee**  
**June 20, 2pm – NEW SUB 3511**

Invited

Mackenzie Lockhart (Chair), Jakob Gattinger (Councillor), Jeanie Malone (Councillor), Cameron England (Councillor), Chris Hakim (Councillor), Kelvin Hsu (Member at Large), Pooja Bhatti (Executive), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk), Akhil Jobanputra (Guest)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm

Agenda Items

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Chris Seconded: Jeanie

That the agenda be adopted as amended.

Carried

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Cam Seconded: Chris

That minutes from the June 6th meeting be approved and sent to Council.

Carried

3. Committee Goals

Moved: Seconded:

That the Committee adopt “Goals Summer 2017” as the goals for this committee this summer.

4. Presidents Council

Moved to allow designate to report -> Chris, Seconded Mac

Carried.

Moved: Cam Seconded: Chris

That the code change titled “Code changes 2017 President's Council” be recommended to Council.

Unanimous consent

5. Election Job Changes

Moved: Seconded:

That the code change titled “Code changes 2017 -----” be recommended to Council.

6. Election Committee RestructureRemove ED

Moved Jeanie Seconded Cam

Carried

Moved: Pooja Seconded: Chris

That the code change titled “Code changes 2017 – Elections Committee Members” be recommended to Council.

Unanimous

*This is exactly what Max asked for – it's been run by Max. We're changing Elections Comm to how he asked*

*Should we remove Exec Director at the same time? I say yes.  
This code also removes VFM, which I think is one of our jobs.*

1. Election Endorsements

Moved: Cam

Seconded: Chris

That the code change titled "Code changes 2017 – Election Endorsements" be recommended to Council.

Carried unanimous

*This is what Council wanted*

2. Media Protocol

Moved: Pooja

Seconded: Jeanie

That Governance Committee recommend AMS Council direct Operations Committee to look into updating/creating a media policy for constituencies per Recommendation 4 from the AMS Ad Hoc Committee on Constituency Relationships.

Carried unanimously.

*Mac - not a governance issue*

*Forming a media protocol is not a governance issue*

*Requires different people*

*Like to see operations look at it*

*Further extend the deadline? No*

3. Election Date Standardization

Moved: Mac

Seconded: Pooja

That Governance Committee recommend AMS Council direct Presidents' Council to consult Constituencies on the feasibility of standardized election dates and the preferred implementation of those changes and to report their findings to GovCom.

Carries.

*Mac:*

*Standardized turnover dates, changed bylaws*

*1. Kind of messy*

*2. Told in bylaws that constituencies can run elections however they want*

*3. Loophole - prefer to see them change their own*

*Standardize turnover - operations job is minimal, would only make the EAs job easier*

*Want this to go to president's council, and constituency run a referendum*

*Feasibility - would like to see them - not sure if any constituency that election dates wouldn't work; president's council would be a good opportunity to discuss this*

*Hoping to do it themselves*

*Council endorsed in principle, not sure how practice would look like*

*President's has the opportunity to deal with this at a detail oriented*

*Deadline - September 1st? Very little time*

*Mostly dealt with big picture levels*

*Council endorses recommendations that are good in theory, but maybe not good in practice*

*Sheldon*

*Does anyone care about standardize of election dates?*

*Max:*

*Turnover dates is what people care about*

*Pooja:*

*Should discuss in president's, doesn't make sense*

*Jeanie*

*Disagree, we already discussed it*

*Mac:*

*Heavy handed*

*Chris:*

*This came up in council, talked about, while objection, it was still voted on based on majority, commentary, may get the same arguments*

*Redundant to send to a different body*

*Mac:*

*Two big changes - that was a recommendation, passed recommendation, then looked and said not feasible*

*Having someone look at feasibility look at it*

*Jacob:*

*Not a question of feasibility*

*Redundant, or can wait and have president's council look at it, code change at the end of the day?*

*Mac:*

*Being asked to go in and change bylaws for our own convenience*

*Recommendation was to standardize all election dates, for a lot of constituencies, may not work, may not do election timelines (i.e.: Law)*

*Just because the big ones can standardize, maybe not the smaller*

*But president's council can make those calls better than other committees*

*Recommendations - in principle spirit of it*

*Worry - that committee wasn't looking at individual responses, looking at overall responses*

*Some committees saying we don't want to do it, looking at feasibility of standardizing election dates, have to consider - may not be a one size fits all*

*Don't think that this committee is going to be the right group to see this happen*

*But presidents council represent all constituencies*

*Cam:*

*Motion is to add a layer of consultation, and constituencies go back and change their bylaws individually if they so choose*

*Chris:*

*Sending this to president's council not just to hear from undergrad societies that are big that worked for them,*

*What if they don't show up?*

*Pooja:*

*That was their choice to not show up, we did the extra work in consulting with them*

*Mac:*

*Point was convenient, was to make sure started and trained at equal times - turnover dates fit the recommendation here*

*Turnover dates are the same and election dates don't relate to the issue that was discussed*

*If we want to talk about election dates we should do more consultation, doesn't seem that there was a specific reasons that there was elections and not turnover*

*Jakob:*

*Because governance committee is dealing with turnover*

*Mac:*

*Looking at data - a lot of people weren't sure*

*People really didn't want AMS to organize them*

*Feedback wasn't definite*

*Max:*

*We even have requirements from constituencies to do things that they don't do that*

*Mac:*

*Another recommendation, oversee constituency and club elections*

*Separate conversation on this*

*Can ask the committee/constituency to standardize own election dates/bylaws*

*A lot of stuff that is left to be done with this recommendation that isn't done with goernance*

*Ccam:*

*Maybe send to president's council, and we make the final call if sent back*

*We did the consultation*

*Wasn't fully represented by all constituencies*

*Some didn't participate as much*

*This way we can 'force' all constituencies to give some sort of input so we at least some sort of baseline*

*Pooja:*

*Not to mention that opinions were made by people who didn't go through with it, it was made by people who didn't do it*

*10. Student Court (If time permits) Moved Jacob Strike 15 (1) (3) Second Jeanie*

*Carried without dissent*

*Chris:*

*State of existence and non exist which code and bylaws defines it but it's not a formed thing*

*Controversy - courts exists for democratic reasons*

*People use the word for this but it becomes a controversial kind of thing*

*Governance should take on sooner rather than later*

*Should be tackling the problem sometime soon*

*Mac:*

*Good place to start - think about why it is in a state of disrepair*

*Problems as it currently exists*

*Then we can think about why it exists*

*Chris:*

*Feasibility*

- Controversial issues*
- Not formed, go through a whole process*
- When people realize it exists, people come to it with issues*

*Mac:*

*It can't overturn council's decisions*

*No legal way to delegate power*

*Sheldon:*

*Bylaws said that student court ruling took effect when it would be sent to council*

*But if they didn't like it they would pretend it's not there*

*Council now has to discuss it*

*Max:*

*Always got overturned*

*Bring it back, same thing might happen, no power over them, undemocratic*

*Council is board of directors, having another organization making decisions can put us in trouble*

*Jakob:*

*Don't want to put power to someone else*

*Student court needs to go*

*Aaron Bailey tried to run a referendum*

*Might be the way to go*

*Similar question*

*Mac:*

*Expensive, don't want to give a body of power, and it's sort of always going to be kind of weirdly functional  
But referendum won't be easy*

*Chris:  
Biggest reason why it's in existence and non existences*

*Majority agreement in governance committee  
Democratic  
Hard to justify it*

*Jakob:  
AGM topic?*

*Chris: can be risky way to explain it*

*Max:  
Representative people who are elected are making the decision*

*Mac:  
Can have an ombudsperson who can*

*Law students are always drunk*

*Sheldon:  
Looks good on their resume  
Would import fancy theories of law*

*Jakob:  
May not have a lot of context, not a lot of ruling to make the proper decisions*

*Can we delete the one line of code that says that the student court always needs to be filled?*

***MOVED BY Jakob, SECONDED BY Jeanie:  
BIRT: Section 15 article 1 paragraph 3 ← remove***

*It's Summer no one's gonna come*

*Chris:  
It's shady*

*Mac:  
Not in favour of students who make calls and don't understand the AMS*

*Carries*

Next Meeting: TBD but in about 2 weeks.

Adjourn

Moved:

That the meeting be adjourned at 3:04

Seconded:



## THE AMS OF UBC VANCOUVER

### Minutes of the AMS Governance Committee July 17, 4pm – NEW SUB 3529

#### Attendance

Mackenzie Lockhart (Chair), Jakob Gattinger (Councillor), Jeanie Malone (Councillor), Cameron England (Councillor), Pooja Bhatti (Executive), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk), Max Holmes (Guest)

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:11 pm

#### Agenda Items

##### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Cameron

Seconded: Pooja

That the agenda be adopted.

##### 2. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Cameron

Seconded: Pooja

That minutes from the June 20th and July 6th meetings be approved and sent to Council.

##### 3. Elections Overhaul

*Electoral Gospel*

*Max - most committees just pass the documents*

*Conflict of interest change:*

- making it clear*
- making it so technically, current staff members couldn't be appointed EA*
- clarifying how we do members of a commission*
- commissioner in academic department isn't appointed by council, but is by an executive*

*Members of the executive committee:*



## **“The optimum committee has zero members”**

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- *should be more clear*
- *got rid of the time frame*
- *members of the committee even if they resign from their position during that term*
- *during the AMS fiscal year*
- *the other one covered that?*
- *the other one said 'Samantha couldn't be EA'*
- *if pooja resigned to be EA, she couldn't*
- *mostly a semantics change*
- *not eligible for this year*
- *retroactively*
- *during an academic year in which they serve on an executive committee*
- *Intent is just for the academic year*
- *why if we report to SSM? They are not elected?*
- *because student services have to be neutral*
- *but like AMS events? could the director?*
- *you can work for one of our businesses - anyone who does admin work in the AMS (advocacy, services)*
- *wouldn't cover the events or communication departments*
- *could add managing director to that too*
- *managing director --> add*
- *Article 1, 5, b - intention that no one on the admin side serve on elections committee, but had to fix some wordings*
- *in the event of a bielection ? Currently it says that election committee can be replaced by an outside body if you get rid of the EA*



## **“The optimum committee has zero members”**

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- bielections - you can change the nomination period, length of campaign period
- bielections - do you have to appoint all these people ? You'd have to suspend code
- oversee club elections? Unless admin asks, don't oversee
- Constituency - if they decide to use AMS resources - simply voting - oversee the election
- isn't a definition - own elections, constituencies in which the elections committee is involved ?
- what was there earlier ? Lacking definition
- useful for what oversee means - isn't clear in Article 9
- seems odd to allow a request for oversight to determine if someone can be on the elections committee
- as determined by the elections committee? No should be determining its own conflicts
- seems out of place because will deal with this this coming year
- tell the elections committee to put a definition on things
- any elections overseen - own elections, constituencies - ineligible to maintain or be members of elections committee
- 8. B conflicts - say the same thing?
- board and senate
- need to add subsidiary organizations to the previous change

### *Powers and Duties:*

- report the performance of the election
- not report on specifics
- and overall evaluation, what went wrong, what went right, general opinions
- results and overview of the logistics of the election



## **“The optimum committee has zero members”**

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- record the results of executive elections - what kind of files of personal information?
- for example - nomination forms have signatures and such
- may be legally obligated to publish it
- now make people sign an agreement to agree to follow the rules
- can keep the part that the candidate signed, but should not for the ones with the nominees
- archives has plenty of confidential information - don't want someone to be able to walk in and ask for nomination forms
- wouldn't show it to them
- how long keeping it, why?
- Every EA destroys nomination forms
- 'with personal information removed'
- committee shall provide advice ... why we're changing it
- directly to do with recommendation with constituency relationships
- advice that gave in details
- decided this - SUS had a problem - said names of people with no Yes or No
- couldn't rule unless had an appeal
- this says that notice something wrong, that it is a violation, can tell EA that's not valid
- something that is not impartial - only a violation of article 9
- viewing results - no one should see the results before released
- if elections admin removed by council; external organizations?
- never seen that happen, don't know what the thinking was
- remove it because code is clear that it is outlined in code, but saying that it is fine to give to an outside body - seems odd



## **“The optimum committee has zero members”**

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- *why get rid of information meeting? Over the past few years, information meeting attendance is basically nothing - more people that come to their office to ask questions than attend the information meeting; cost money because of food, early in the process*
- *informally, might be a good idea, shouldn't be codified*
- *changed candidates of who the candidates are - added board and senate*
- *board; don't need 50, need 10*
- *executive nomination forms - each candidate running for an executive position*
- *...in accordance with? New conflict of interest rules in the code*
- *paragraph 8*
- *no control over what the paper publishes*
- *200 words - hold each candidate to the same mandate*
- *didn't want to cross out all of 6. D - cross out 'before voting commences'*
- *make clear that we have control over a few aspects*
- *neutrality is kept at the forum - can't allow the forums to not be impartial*
- *what if you remove in the middle of the elections?*
- *if wasn't being impartial, can ask to step down*
- *poster-ing*
- *publications to editor or articles - struck out - because it implies that you can pre-campaign*
- *didn't want people to do this before candidates are released*
- *polling station; define that*
- *idea is to allow secrecy of the voting*
- *take out; as determined by the poll clerks*
- *what if letting vote on computer? Am I a polling station?*
- *also have campaign team people*



## “The optimum committee has zero members”

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- issue is if I'm campaigning, shouldn't be able to take laptop and go around

- shouldn't have candidate or volunteers

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### **4. Notice of e-mail vote**

Since the last meeting, an email vote occurred on the following motion:

“Be it resolved that Governance Committee recommend that AMS Council adopt the code changes entitled "Code Changes 2017: Steering Committee composition" and amend code accordingly.”

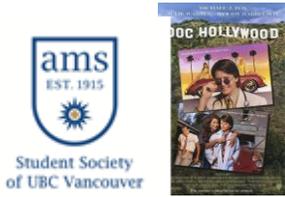
The motion passed with 6 votes in favor and 1 member not voting.

### **Next Meeting**

Next Meeting: TBD but in about 2 weeks.

### **Adjourn**

That the meeting be adjourned at 5:08 PM.



## THE AMS OF UBC VANCOUVER

### Minutes of the AMS Governance Committee

Aug 2, 4pm – NEW SUB 3529

#### Invited

Mackenzie Lockhart (Chair), Jeanie Malone (Councillor), Cameron England (Councillor), Pooja Bhatti (Executive), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council), Akhil Jobanputra (Guest),

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm

#### Agenda Items

##### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Cam

Seconded: Pooja

That the agenda be adopted.

Finance changes - Alim isn't here, deal with it later

Jakob can't make it to the meeting, so no discussion on Interim Executives

##### 2. Elections Overhaul

Moved: Mac

Seconded: Jeanie

That the code change titled "Code changes 2017 Elections Overhaul" be recommended to Council for adoption.

*Max is no longer able to help - we're on our own*

*Last time - talking about what could be called a polling station*

*7G - liked what we put down last time "for the purpose of this provision, a polling station shall include any computer used by the elections committee, poll clerks, candidates of their volunteers on which more than one voter is casting a vote" --> candidate or their volunteers couldn't go around handing their laptops out to people*



**“A committee is a group of people who individually can do nothing, but who, as a group, can meet and decide that nothing can be done.”**

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*Candidates and campaign organizations - should it be physical, or website social media pages*

*For the most part, poster boards (but not going to have posters anymore)*

*Insert physical*

*Conflict of interest:*

*Copied from the elections handbook*

*Re-wrote what Max said, direct recommendation from council*

*10F - process for reimbursements*

*Much to ask from the elections committee to have that final say*

*Everyone could be eligible for reimbursements*

*Before: certain number of votes*

*However no one gets a vote total in the end - Max wanted elections committee to decide - Mac thinks everyone is reimbursed*

*Could get rid of f and g - not saying anything*

*Move that we remove the new 'f' and removing the old 'f and g' at the same time*

*Second: Pooja*

*Cam: maybe the reason some of that was put there so there would be a process where they don't - so campaign violations, maybe leaving the freedom*

*Somewhere else - penalties*

*Isn't possible with condorcet*



**“A committee is a group of people who individually can do nothing, but who, as a group, can meet and decide that nothing can be done.”**

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*Penalties - where we going to define what constitutes serious, intermediate - seems to be open to the elections committee - what is a serious offence*

*Max wanted o leave it open to elections committee*

*'Including but not limited to...'*

*outside of the realm of what's going to happen, but let's say that we get a bad Elections committee one year - and a serious offence is something that wasn't considered beforehand*

*Elections committee should define these things*

*No objections - motion passes unanimously*

*Referendum regulations - confidential manner*

*Shouldn't publicize ? Discret ? Problem in the past when VP Sustainability referendum*

*..."without publicizing the nature of the question through AMS communication outlets"?*

*..."and shall not discuss the question except with members of council or senior managers" <--*

*8. (B) - option? Is it a thing? Came about with the first BDS referendum (vote anything but yes)*

*Many didn't want to advocate a no vote*

*Don't think supporting 'abstain' is a legitimate option*

*Suggestions - remove 'option' in 'side or option'*

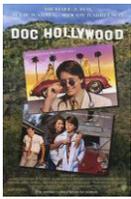
*Next time it happens, say against yes, would have to vote no*

*Moved by Mac, seconded by Cam*

*Motion passes, Jeanie abstains*

*Funding for Yes or No committees - 150 to 250; why?*

*10-30 days - could be very difficult to get 250 votes*



**“A committee is a group of people who individually can do nothing, but who, as a group, can meet and decide that nothing can be done.”**

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*Moved by Mac, seconded by Pooja*

*Motion passes unanimously*

*Why Yes or No committees not keep minutes - historically, never keep minutes*

*Doesn't seem necessary - but spending society's money?*

*Would have to have votes on how to spend their money*

*Never been done; also candidates don't write minutes*

*Publications of funding - why remove? 7 days was for elections committee to get their shit together - want to restore this, but change to '2 business days of the receipt of a petition or motion of council calling a referendum' <-- can dig up the bylaws to confirm how this should be worded '....(two business days of the receipt of a petition by the vp aua...."*

*Moved by Mac, seconded by Jeanie*

*Motion passes unanimously*

*Article 5, 2; 250 personnel hours ?*

*At least 4 hours per voting day during society elections and referenda*

*6 (c)*

*Moved over - instead of having things in person, have them online*

*Article 7,5,f,V*

*There are strategic ways to vote - that makes first place votes not necessarily meaningful*



**“A committee is a group of people who individually can do nothing, but who, as a group, can meet and decide that nothing can be done.”**

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*Suggest if there is no clear winner, directly to a coin toss (50% prefer A to B, 50% prefer B and A)*

*Strike 'the candidate with the most first place rankings shall be declared the winner. If there is no clear winner,'*

*Article 11 - if we ever need to do paper ballots, Elections committee can decide*

*Article 13 is crossed out*

*Moved Mac, seconded Jeanie*

*Motion passes unanimously*

### **3. Constituency Reporting (Discussion)**

We'll discuss constituency reporting (the recommendation left from the ad-hoc committee on constituencies) to arrive at direction for how we'll proceed.

Do we want to put in in code? A policy?

*Policy? Code?*

*2 page report on what constituency is up to in council twice a year*

*A way of informing, making sure doing your work*

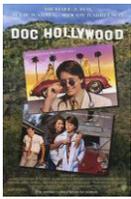
*Could write one policy on this, put this in code*

*Send to president's council for their handbook - but the handbook is being made by VP Admin*

*So send to VP Admin*

*Put in code under president's council is that their duties is to oversee twice yearly reports, and reports can be defined in the handbook for president's council*

*Financial accountability - VP Finance is already doing that*



**“A committee is a group of people who individually can do nothing, but who, as a group, can meet and decide that nothing can be done.”**

---

*Good to make sure keeping in check, making sure to know what the accounting role does*

*We draft up language for code 'requiring takes place in president's council, goes in handbook'*

*Get Alim's idea in the next meeting*

*Appendix D - requiring them to do that*

### **Next Meeting**

Next Meeting: TBD but in about 2 weeks.

### **Adjourn**

That the meeting be adjourned at 3:04 pm.



# THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF UBC VANCOUVER

Minutes of the AMS Governance Committee  
September 22, 2017 – 3PM

## Members

Christopher Hakim (Chair), Jeanie Malone (Councillor), Cameron England (Councillor), Julian Villafuerte Diaz (Councillor), Kevin Doering (Councillor), Hadi Chaudhry (Member-at-Large), Sally Lin (Executive), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk)

Present:

Christopher Hakim (Chair), Jeanie Malone (Councillor), Cameron England (Councillor), Hadi Chaudhry (Member-at-Large), Sally Lin (Executive)

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm

## Agenda Items

### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Chris

Seconded: Cam

Unanimously approved.

That the agenda be adopted.

### 2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Moved: Cam

Seconded: Jeanie

That Hadi be appointed as Vice-Chair for a period beginning immediately and ending after the first council in May.

Unanimously approved.

## AMS Governance Committee

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### 3. Goal Setting

We have a blank canvas of a sort for this year's Governance Committee.

Leftover from the last GovCom:

- On recommendation of the Executive Committee, we need to draw up an Internal Policy for the procedures needed for biannual committee reviews
- Student court

[Chris]: Student Court is a big issue to tackle. Other potential areas – steering committee (when we face a problem with it, we suspend code).

[Sally]: Maybe we could direct an exec to consider implementation plans for it for next year?

[Chris]: Not necessarily policy problem, something in code. Need to look at start and end dates.

[Cam]: Summer attendance is an issue (people not in town, but still mandated to sit on committees).

[Jeanie]: Need to look at how we explain committees and reqs to apply to sit on one.

[Sally]: Procedural...

[Chris]: Mac sent me some internal policies he was reviewing and sent to me. Will look over them.

[Jeanie]: Mac wanted to change gender pronouns through whole code.

[Chris]: Sheldon also gave me a list of mostly housekeeping topics:

- Removing specific fee levels from AMS fees
- Speakers term (when they are hired) is listed as Apr 1<sup>st</sup>
- CiTR rules
- Elections reserve funds
- SUB repairs & replacement fund
- Endowment fund
- Definition of an AMS member (would be tricky.)
- Constituency/departmental clubs

## AMS Governance Committee

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- Student court

[Jeanie]: Make a calendar... let's space out the housekeeping ones so council only gets 1-3 coming to them per week. Keep the meatier ones separate.

[Hadi]: When I was joining this summer, many students didn't understand the fees on the financial breakdown. Should be more info up there.

[Sally]: Can opt out of some of them! Not all. Fees go through referenda.

[Sally]: Maybe – wait for Alim on the fees things?

[Chris]: It is a housekeeping thing. There is a paragraph, very outdated.

### 4. Student Court

[Chris]: It is a problem. Last govcomm thought it was a problem. Should we get rid of it/change it/fix it?

[Sally]: Doesn't take anything away... not helpful. Generally we have not had issues that could be dealt with effectively by student court.

[Chris]: Always causes trouble when it comes up.

[Jeanie]: It is in bylaws. AGM, SGM, or referenda.

[Cam]: Unlikely quorate AGM...

[Sally]: U-PASS at March Referenda... this would be the year.

[Sally]: I will go check with Sheldon, Keith... may be related to Societies Act.

[Cam]: If we were going to have student court exist, we should at least make it harder for council to overturn it. Otherwise, it has no real power.

[Chris]: Scary to give another body power over AMS Council. It could hurt us if they put us in wrong legal standing.

[Sally]: Not sure I like the rhetoric that it is a waste of money... if we are thinking about getting rid of student court, rationale should be that it is not what best serves the membership.

[Hadi]: It should stay – important, seems like it is not being done well. Implementation. It needs some sort of briefing about AMS, explanation about gravity of their decisions. I think it will get

## AMS Governance Committee

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defeated in referenda... hard to sell getting rid of a court. We need to make it look better, to recruit judges.

[Jeanie]: Lots of operational issues. Would need to be fixed. Ex: why only law students. Money - about \$18k for us to hire from beginning of Feb to end of term. Would need to hire all year for effectiveness. Hiring when issues come up is impractical. I also think our council does have the expertise to gather all the bylaws.

[Chris]: Put aside costs. I really believe it is ineffective, we have most of the resources. Council, Sheldon, lawyers... lots of ways to resolve issues.

[Sally]: Not discussing getting rid of student court – is there something in the idea of having a student court?

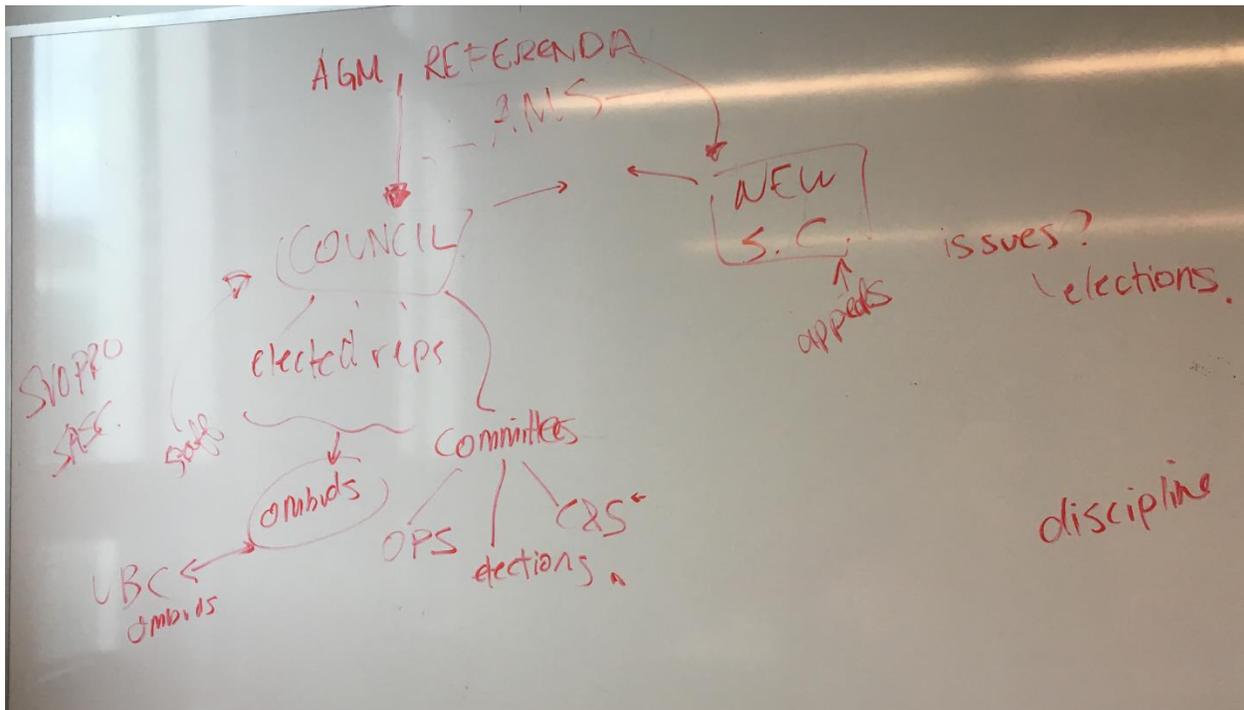
[Cam]: Ombuds?

[Sally]: They report to council.

[Hadi]: What about issues that you're angry with council about?

[Chris]: Student court... then back to council?

[Sally]: Also legit if we mess up we get sued.



## AMS Governance Committee

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### Action Items

- Chris will email out lists from Mac & Sheldon!
- Chris will forward past minutes when Govcomm previously discussed student court
- Chris will bring a whole list of what issues happened in the past in student court

### Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be determined by a when2meet.

### Adjourn

As the agenda was exhausted, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06pm.

## THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF UBC VANCOUVER

Agenda of the AMS Governance Committee  
October 16, 2017 – 2:30PM

### Members

Christopher Hakim (Chair), Jeanie Malone (Councillor), Cameron England (Councillor), Julian Villafuerte Diaz (Councillor), Kevin Doering (Councillor), Hadi Chaudhry (Vice-Chair), Sally Lin (Executive), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk)

Absent: Jeanie Malone, Sheldon Goldfarb

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 pm

### Agenda Items

#### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Chris

Seconded: Cameron

That the agenda be adopted.

*Unanimous consent*

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Chris

Seconded: Cameron

That the minutes from the June 20 and September 22 Governance Committee meetings be approved and sent to Council.

*Unanimous consent*

#### 3. Student Services Manager Reporting

Moved: Chris

Seconded: Kevin

That the code changes titled 'Code Changes 2017 Student Services Manager in Exec Reports' be recommended to Council.

*Unanimous consent*

#### 4. Speaker of Council Term Dates

## AMS Governance Committee

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Moved: Chris

Seconded: Julian

That the code changes titled 'Code Changes 2017 Speaker of Council Term Dates' be recommended to Council

***Unanimous consent***

### **5. Steering Committee**

BIRT the Governance Committee recommend to Council to amend Article V, Section 7, 2(a) to state "coordinate the goals of the Executive...." (strike "approve and").

*Requested by Max*

[Sally]: Steering Committee didn't approve any goals and only coordinated in practice in my last year on the committee

[Chris]: Steering Committee doesn't convene in time for 'approval' to be valid

[Kevin]: Last year Steering Committee didn't exist, and now this new committee's practices have just been approved, but my problem is that why was 'approve' included if it wasn't important or traditional to the committee's function

[Julian]: If our arguments are based on the fact that Steering Committee doesn't follow code 'in practice', then they could be seen as inaccurate as Steering Committee was only just established and we're substituting Steering Committee for Oversight Committee

[Kevin]: I see the problems the executives have with this amendment, and also am reluctant to approve because we only just included this in code.

[Sally]: Better to check in with Max, Marium, Sheldon, etc. to get more insight before we make any decisions. Decide later.

*Motion to suspend and revisit at next meeting*

Moved: Kevin      Seconded: Cameron

***Carries***

### 6. Discussion

- Student Court.

[Chris]: Student Court doesn't reach its intended purpose properly without being cost efficient or effective; I still firmly believe it doesn't serve a meaningful purpose

[Julian]: Since Student Court is subsidiary to council, any time it makes a ruling council doesn't like, council rejects it anyways, so what's the point?

[Cameron]: I agree with Julian, perhaps make it harder for council to reject, however even that adds complication

[Sally]: if we make changes to give an external body to the AMS teeth, and consequently power to significantly affect us, it may make things a lot more difficult

[Cameron]: Perhaps make the majority to reject decision harder to reach

[Kevin]: What would be the merit of keeping Student Court?

[Chris]: As a body of appeals, but we already have so many appellate body (ombudspersons, petitions, etc.) and other ways to garner council's attention. Furthermore, we can delegate interpretation of bylaws to others in council rather than require an external body.

[Julian]: Judgments, especially the one given in 1977 exemplify how risky having a Student Court is

[Chris]: Should we get rid of Student Court through referendum? (informal motion)

#### ***Unanimous consent***

[Chris]: How can we make this effective, or word it in a way that ensures it's more likely to be passed in the referendum

[Kevin]: It's fairly easy, reference the bylaws rather than use specific wording, people shouldn't have an issue. Let's forward this to council to discuss, let's not put forth a motion already

[Sally]: There are a lot of procedures and checks for referendum language, we don't have to worry too much about this

## AMS Governance Committee

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[Kevin]: We should collect materials to be able to combat the barrage of questions to be asked in council

[Sally]: Chris should prepare a memo or document to submit to council regarding the background and our decision on Student Court

- Steering Committee

[Chris]: Don't believe steering is fully useful currently. Exec goals already go through council, adding another step to that may waste time. Either choose a way to fix it, or delete it.

[Kevin:] If a very good executive exists then there's not really an issue, but occasionally, when useless people sit in the office and need every piece of code to keep them in check. Steering committee is necessary during those bad executive's terms; if we don't have Steering Committee, we'll regret it at that point in time.

[Julian]: It's important to keep Steering Committee

[Cameron]: Removing or keeping Steering Committee is different to the argument of whether its efficient

[Chris]: If council exists, why do we need Steering Committee?

[Julian]: Steering Committee acts as a screening process for what comes to council

[Cameron]: I agree with Julian

[Kevin]: Existence of council is for executives to have road blocks

[Julian]: Returning to Kevin's point, if things hits the fan, Steering Committee will be necessary

[Chris]: Something needs to be done to make it more efficient, and we should discuss this later

[Sally]: Policy I-9 may help us shed light on the intention of Steering Committee's role, and we may want to use it as a reference

- Equity & Issues Caucus

## AMS Governance Committee

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[Sally]: Don't want this caucus to exist without serving its purpose and exist for the point of existing

[Chris]: I agree; identity politics is not useful.

[Cameron]: People don't really seem care too much about the AMS and caucuses haven't been useful

[Kevin]: Our original thought was that they'd provide insight that we don't have

[Chris]: We've done what we can on our end, but still is working properly

[Sally]: We tried very hard to revise, clarify and review over the past year

[Julian]: Was it ever asked to students whether they needed this?

[Sally]: There was a consultation in the governance review

[Hadi]: Governance review may have made a useless recommendation, we've tried our hardest to implement this, especially Sally, however this seems inherently flawed, perhaps it's best we ditch it all in all. Do we have to follow the governance review?

[Sally]: Other recommendations by the review haven't necessarily been overly useful

[Chris]: Let's try not to delete it, how can we amend the caucus?

[Hadi]: How hard did Sally and the External office work on this? Is this unfixable?

**[Everyone]:** a lot

[Hadi]: Should talk about deleting, seems unfixable

[Sally]: I'll bring it up to Advocacy Committee, I can work to get rid of this

### Action items:

- [Chris] Make document to submit to council regarding Student Court and GovCom's decision
- [Chris] Talk to Max, Jakob, Sheldon, etc. regarding Steering Committee and the Governance Review

## **AMS Governance Committee**

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### **Next Meeting**

Biweekly; Monday, 2:30 (30<sup>th</sup> October)

### **Adjourn**

Moved: Chris

Seconded: Julian

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:25PM



## THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF UBC VANCOUVER

Agenda of the AMS Governance Committee  
October 30, 2017 – 2:30PM

### Members

Christopher Hakim (Chair), Jeanie Malone (Councillor), Cameron England (Councillor), Julian Villafuerte Diaz (Councillor), Kevin Doering (Councillor), Hadi Chaudhry (Member-at-Large), Sally Lin (Executive), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk)

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:29 pm

### Agenda Items

#### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Chris

Seconded: Jeanie

*That the agenda be adopted.*

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Hadi

Seconded: Cameron

*That the minutes from October 16 Governance Committee meeting be approved and sent to Council.*

#### 3. Steering Committee

*Section 5, Article 7 (2)(a), strike the words "approve and".*

Max: In conflict with Policy I-9, the responsibility of approving executive goals is on council as opposed to Steering Committee. Governance Review didn't setup Steering Committee to review goals, and if we were to keep this we'd get another Oversight Committee which in itself was flawed.

Sheldon: Have you checked over this change with Steering Committee?

Max: Not really, but they're supposed to be concerned with steering the Society, not there to be an approval body for executive goals, that's for Council to take care of.

## AMS Governance Committee

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Sheldon: So you're suggesting to leave it as 'coordinate' goals and not approve?

Cam: Approval of goals should be going through council and not Steering Committee; Steering Committee is more coordination

***Unanimously approved***

### **4. Approval of Document**

Moved:

Seconded:

*That the document entitled 'Governance Committee - Decision on Student Court' be approved and sent to Council.*

Sheldon's email: Few changes such as the historical background on the power of Student Court, Student Court as a disciplinary body, referendum question rewriting, and Elections Appeals Committee.

Chris: Need to make changes as per Sheldon's recommendations

Jeanie: Can we please do an email vote when we have the final draft?

Sheldon: Chris can you add to the current document what you would replace the Student Court with in regards to rewriting referendum questions?

Cam: Perhaps give Governance Committee the power to revise referendum questions?

Chris: I don't think Governance Committee should be rewriting referendum questions, as Governance Committee is a bit like Council. Maybe give it to the body consisting of the Chair of Governance, Speaker of Council, and the Clerk of Council?

Jeanie: Elections committee is the farthest from being elected by Council perhaps use them? However, may not be good to use Elections Committee themselves, we can use them to appoint a working group body that rewrites referendum questions (as they're least attached from Council)

Chris: Should we pass an informal motion to amend this?

Jeanie: Better to get pros and cons of this before we decide

Julian: It'd also be good to list different options to Council to give them choice

## AMS Governance Committee

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Chris: Should we approve the document as it is, then?

Jeanie: I think we should approve it as is right now, in principle, then approve the amended version via an email vote

*Unanimously approved in principle*

### 4. Discussion

- Steering Committee

Chris: I asked Max, Jakob and Sheldon as well as looked at the Governance Review to get more insight about why Steering Committee was formed and the reasons behind getting rid of Oversight Committee. In the review, it wasn't stated explicitly that replace Oversight Committee was to be replaced, but it was stated that Oversight Committee caused too many problems and should be removed. MNP, the consulting firm, suggested that maybe staff could provide information about bad executives as a work around oversight.

Julian: Not a good idea of staff reporting as it may raise ethical issues and conflicts of interest

Chris: What should we do with Steering Committee, should it be there with its current mandate?

Jeanie: May be better to ask what Steering Committee does and its importance in 'steering' the AMS

Sheldon: Jakob was one of the people that suggested look into the feasibility of Steering Committee anyway

Jeanie: Steering may be problematic as it's focusing too much on short-term, relatively unimportant issues. However, using it to do long-term strategy may be more effective

Chris: Long term strategy may spark conflict when executives and chairs turn over

Julian: Often people that replace in times of transition look back at previous objectives and work on them, so this may not be a big issue

Jeanie: Moving Steering Committee into long term as opposed to reactionary may be optimal, however, this will probably be a difficult task

Chris: We also shouldn't be delegating council's jobs into committees i.e. Steering Committee approving goals

## AMS Governance Committee

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Jeanie: Perhaps Steering Committee is good for Council to delegate some tasks as it's not easy to draft and write in Council

Chris: Moving Steering Committee from approval of goals and coordination to more of 'steering' the direction of Council and shape the long term

Sheldon: Two things: consult with Steering Committee and dig up discussions to see what is wanted from Steering Committee

Chris: What do we do when we have a bad executive? Steering Committee, or use a different body?

Cam: We may want to give that power to Council since if Steering Committee's chairs and vice-chairs are executives, it may have a conflict of interest

Jeanie: Council's mandate includes keeping executives in check, not a good idea to delegate to another committee

Sheldon: We had a bad executive; solution was Oversight Committee. In this case the solution was worse than problem.

- Efficiency and Amendment of Discussions

Chris: We may want to place a limit on how many discussion points had in council or possibly introduce a vote on adding a discussion point during Council

Cam: We need to make sure councilors still know that they're able to amend discussion points and that we're not trying to restrict their ability to put points forth

Julian: This is why it's dangerous to limit the discussion items. Does Code actually allow discussion items to be added in the way they are being currently?

Sheldon: Yes.

Cam: It may be beneficial to keep the current structure of discussion amendments as it allows viable points to come forward

Sheldon: Discussion period is there for when there's no motion, and just for information possibly before a motion. Some year's discussion is hardly used, and has been used a lot lately; perhaps that's because there haven't been many motions and not much to discuss at council.

## AMS Governance Committee

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Chris: Councillors should be able to make a motion to amend the agenda, with motivation, seconding, and a vote; is this the agreement?

Julian: I don't have a problem with the current structure

Chris: The problem is that it's being used as a loophole to certain things like the limit on questions.

Jeanie: It doesn't say in Code that you can't

Sheldon: This seems to more of an issue now as opposed to before, why?

Jeanie: Does the proposed change allow for deeper and better discussion, or not?

Chris: This should act more as a filter, with motivation to be able to see the intent of amendment rather than arbitrary amendments. Sometimes there's a very specific or arbitrary discussion that only a few people can participate in and wastes the time of Council as it could be held elsewhere

Sheldon: I can draft something to add a filtering method for amendments in the Code and send it to Chris

- Ad-hoc Committees Reporting

Chris: Ad-hoc committees are unable to report to Council at the moment, and no progress updates provided. Currently it's seen as out of order. Perhaps we should get more updates from Ad-hoc committees considering that SHAPE committee is responsible for art worth around \$4M. There are only 3 ad-hoc committees to my knowledge, so it wouldn't be long and time consuming in Council.

Julian: Thing with Ad-hoc committees is that they rarely meet.

Sheldon: we could put this in Code, and revise the hangover of Extraordinary committees. Perhaps change 'extraordinary' to 'ad-hoc' in Code; and just suggest to Jakob to bring this up to Alan as Code states.

Chris: Problem with that is it then we only get reports from some committees if they feel like reporting and they could never update us if they want to.

Sheldon: Perhaps say they 'shall' report in Code

Cam: So are we mandating to report?





## THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF UBC VANCOUVER

Minutes of the AMS Governance Committee  
November 14, 2017 – 4PM

### Members

Present: Christopher Hakim (Chair), Jeanie Malone (Councillor), Julian Villafuerte Diaz (Councillor), Max Holmes (Executive), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk)

Regrets: Cameron England (Councillor), Kevin Doering (Councillor), Hadi Chaudhry (Member-at-Large),

Recording Secretary: Julian Villafuerte Diaz

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 PM

### Agenda Items

#### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Julian           Seconded: Chris

That the agenda be adopted.

*Passes with unanimous consent.*

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Julian           Seconded: Chris

That the minutes from the October 30th Governance Committee meeting be approved and sent to Council.

*Passes with unanimous consent.*

#### 3. Amending Discussions

Moved: Chris           Seconded: Julian

## AMS Governance Committee

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That the code changes titled 'Code Changes 2017 Adding Discussion Topics' be recommended to Council.

Chris: The motivation for this is that the amendment procedure ought to be put in place to prevent councilors from using the current framework which allows for continuous additions of discussion items as a loophole.

Max: Two questions/points: (1) Loophole? (2) Discussion period... is the intention not to discuss?

Chris: As for loophole, the idea is to filter out inefficient discussions and to prevent, for example, councilors from using the discussion period to ask a fourth question following an update. What would be more efficient is for councilors to add discussion items prior to the meeting, or to use discretion in deciding whether an item is more appropriate to bring to council or to discuss individually. Relevant items will pass.

Max: Does not solve the problem. Creates problem of grueling process of amending agenda. Becomes less efficient, adds more time.

Chris: Filtering irrelevant discussion saves time.

Max: Not efficient or appropriate to add this barrier. It should be the right of councilors to suggest discussion items.

Jeanie: In the past the de facto process was that discussion items would have to be amended onto the agenda.

Max: Does not mean this should be the future or official procedure in code.

Jeanie: Also the status quo encourages people adding discussion unnecessarily

Max: I'm against this on the principle that it adds more bureaucracy.

Chris: This amendment to code creates a filter that prevents good vs. bad discussion

Max: This could create an unfair barrier against potentially valid minority opinions.

Chris: Past council meetings demonstrate why this code change is necessary. Irrelevant and excessive discussion.

Max: I don't perceive this as an abuse of the system. These are still minor discussion periods. Meetings have not gone beyond 9pm. Time scarcity not an issue.

## AMS Governance Committee

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Chris: This is not about time. This is about filtering legitimate vs. unnecessary discussion in council.

Max: This is not absolutely necessary. Is it a bit of drag? Yes. But there are a lot of things that are a drag. There is merit in councilors bringing up items that are unpopular. Example: let's say in the future council was against sustainability, and a member wanted to raise a discussion item regarding a sustainability issue. Would it be just to leave the decision of whether or not this is discussed to majority rule?

Chris: Then the member would request the item be added to the agenda 3 days before the agenda is set.

Max: What if the issue were time-sensitive and arose the Monday before the Wednesday Council meeting?

Max: Sheldon, can someone remove discussion item?

Sheldon: Never seen it.

Jeanie: President could?

Sheldon: But not during the meeting.

Max: If people really didn't want to talk about something, then they could make a motion to remove it. That does everything that we need. We don't need this barrier that requires an agenda amendment to add discussion items. Otherwise we will have a worse impediment of having to amend the agenda. Is the status quo bothersome? Yes. But it is good for transparency and the institution as a whole? Yes.

Hakim: We are running around in circles. Is there new discussion or debate.

Julian: Max made a very convincing argument.

*Jeanie, Max, and Julian vote against.*

*Chris votes in favour.*

### **MOTION FAILS**

## **4. Reporting and Questions**

Moved: Chris

Seconded: Jeanie

## AMS Governance Committee

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That the code changes titled 'Code Changes 2017 Reports to Council' be recommended to Council

Chris: Proposing that ad hoc committees should be able to report to council without having to go through the president.

Jeanie: Is New Sub committee ad hoc?

Chris: Extraordinary.

Jeanie: Why not say ad hoc and extraordinary committees.

Chris: Some extraordinary committees like elections committee are reasonably excluded.

Max: Amendment says "shall" report, and not "can" report. Mandating elections and advisory board are not going to come to report at each

Jeanie: The way this amendment reads is that New Sub Committee is an ad hoc committee that is special.

Sheldon: It is. New Sub Committee is an ad hoc committee referred to in code as an extraordinary committee. So it is an ad hoc committee. But it's special.

Jeanie: Sounds like something we should fix.

Max: Why aren't we referring to Student Senate Caucus representatives instead of senators?

Sheldon: We no longer refer to SSC in our code.

Max: But SSC chooses the senators that come to AMS.

Jeanie: But any student senator could report.

Sheldon: Bylaws don't refer to SSC. Neither do Code. We could define SSC and put back in code.

Max: Issue is that all it says is Student Senators, as opposed to SSC representatives. We should go away from the model where the non-designated representatives provide updates. We could say the non-voting student senators on council.

***Informal approval.***

## AMS Governance Committee

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Max: On this piece of code, can we amend paragraph 14 regarding University Committee reporting?

Sheldon: The issue this paragraph addresses is that councilors go to university committees without reporting what happened and what they contributed.

Max: I sit on 30+ university committees. I can't make 30 reports to follow this piece of code realistically. I also provide reports on what I do on these committees in my council updates and on other occasions anyway.

Julian: and if we specify non-executive councilors appointed by AMS Council?

Max: That could work.

Hakim: Are we seeing any amendments?

Max: Yes. Let's specify this to be valid for non-executive councilors appointed by AMS Council, and that they should present a report per term.

Jeanie: How about *submit* a report?

Sheldon: How about per winter session?

Max: Yes.

Hakim: No opposition to this amendment?

***Motion amended with unanimous consent.***

*Jeanie, Chris, Julian vote in favour.*

*Max abstains.*

**MOTION PASSES**

### **5. Discussion**

- Student Court.

Hakim: We will move forward with a plan to remove Student Court. But couldn't agree with how the referenda power should be delegated within the AMS.

Jeanie: Delegate this question back to Council.

## AMS Governance Committee

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Max: Example of the issue of selecting a body ourselves: if we delegate to Elections Committee (1) COI and (2) Elections Committee reports to Council.

Hakim: There was also debate on who should hold interpretation powers. Proposed idea is that it is between clerk of council, speaker, and chair of Govcomm. Any other proposed ideas?

Max: Council. There is somewhat of an issue with govcomm chair Sheldon and speaker. There is one elected person, and they are elected from a constituency. What if the interpretation is in conflict for one of those people? What if one of the things is about the Clerk of Council's job? There is an issue there. Best to say give to Council, and they can delegate by case. Council can delegate to GovComm if appropriate. Let's say Council has the power to delegate.

Sheldon: In practice, we have gone to our lawyers

Max: It makes sense to do this. For sensitive issues, go to more sensitive bodies. Up to the discretion of Council.

Sheldon: Another power vested in Student Court is the ability to expel members.

Jeanie: We shouldn't be able to expel members. What about Nest expulsion?

Max: We shouldn't take powers away from students.

Sheldon: Shall we draft bylaw changes to remove mention of Student Court? By when?

Hakim: By next meeting (will be the last of the term).

### Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 PM.

### Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm